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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

In re Application of: HERMIDA

Serial No: 10/082743

Confirmation No.: 4696

Filed: February 22, 2002

Examiner: G. Krishnan

Group Art Unit: 1623

For: REGENERATION OF ARTICULAR CARTILAGE DAMAGED BY GRADE I AND II
OSTEOARTHRITIS BY MEANS OF THE INTRAARTICULAR APPLICATION OF A
MIXTURE OF SODIUM HYALURONATE AND CHONDROITIN SULFATE IN A
GEL VEHICLE

RESPONSE

MAIL STOP - RESPONSE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following remarks are responsive to the November 4, 2003, Office Action on the above-referenced application. A one month extension of the period for responding to the outstanding Office Action has been requested in the accompanying PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a) AND TRANSMITTAL OF FEE UNDER 37 CFR 1.17(a)(1). In the event that Petition should become detached from this Response or otherwise become lost or misplaced, the Commissioner is requested to charge the fee for a one month extension to Deposit Account No. 501051.

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in the present application. By Office Action dated November 4, 2003, the Examiner has rejected all claims under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Lindblad (U.S. Patent No. 4,801,619) in combination with Nocelli (EPO 704 216 A1). Applicant respectfully traverses.

The Examiner asserts that there would be motivation to combine the cited references, both of which relate to the treatment of mammalian joints exhibiting cartilage degeneration, "for the